Numb. 34

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

From *Saturday June* 25. to *Tueſday June* 28. 1709.

White's Chocolate-houſe, June 25.

HAving taken upon me to cure all the Diſtempers which proceed from Affections of the Mind, I have labour'd, ſince I firſt kept this publick Stage, to do all the Good I could poſſibly, and have perfected many Cures at my own Lodgings; carefully avoiding the common Method of Mountebanks, to do their moſt eminent Operations in Sight of the People; but muſt be ſo juſt to my Patients as to declare, they have teſtified under their Hands their Sense of my poor Abilities, and the Good I have done 'em, which I publiſh for the Benefit of the World, and not out of any Thoughts of private Advantage. I have cured fine Mrs. *Spy* of a great Imperfection in her Eyes, which made her eternally rolling 'em from one Coxcomb to another in publick Places, in ſo languiſhing a Manner, that it at once leſſen'd her own Power, and her Beholders Vanity. Twenty Drops of my Ink, plac'd in certain Letters on which ſhe attentively look'd for half an Hour, have reſtored her to the true Uſe of her Sight; which is, to guide, and not miſlead us. Ever ſince ſhe took this Liquor, which I call, *Bickerſtaff's Circumſpection-Water*, ſhe looks right forward, and can bear being look'd at half a Day without returning one Glance. This Water has a peculiar Virtue in it, which makes it the only true Coſmetick or Beauty-Waſh in the World: The Nature of it is ſuch, that if you go to a Glaſs, with Deſign to admire your Face, it immediately changes it into downright Deformity. If you conſult it only to look with a better Countenance upon your Friends, it immediately gives an Alacrity to the Viſage, and new Grace to the whole Perſon. There is indeed a great deal owing to the Conſtitution of the Perſon to whom it is apply'd: It is vain to give it when the Patient is in the Rage of the Diſtemper; a Bride in her firſt Month, a Lady ſoon after her Husband's being Knighted, or any Perſon of either Sex who has lately obtain'd any new good Fortune or Preferment, muſt be prepar'd ſome Time before they take it. It has an Effect upon others, as well as the Patient, when it is taken in due Form. Lady *Petulant* has by the Uſe of it cured her Husband of Jealouſy, and Lady *Gad* her whole Neighbourhood of Detraction. The Fame of theſe Things, added to my being an old Fellow, makes me extreamly acceptable to the Fair Sex. You would hardly believe me, when I tell you there is not a Man in Town ſo much their Delight as my ſelf. They make no more of viſiting me, than going to Madam *d'Epingle's*. There were two of them, namely, *Damia* and *Clidamira*, (I aſſure you Women of Diſtinction) who came to ſee me this Morning in their Way to Prayers, and being in a very diverting Humour, as Innocence always makes People chearful, they would needs have me, according to the Diſtinction of pretty and *very* pretty Fellows, inform them, if I thought either of them deſerving the *very* pretty among thoſe of their own Sex; and if I did, which was the more deſerving of the Two. To put 'em to the Tryal, Look ye, ſaid I, I muſt not raſhly give my Judgment in Matters of this Importance; pray let me ſee you dance: I play upon the Kit. They immediately fell back to the lowet End of the Room. You may be ſure they curt'ſy'd low enough to me: But they began. Never were Two in the World ſo equally match'd, and both Scholars to my Name-ſake *Iſaac*. Never was Man in ſo dangerous a Condition as my ſelf, when they began to expand their Charms. Oh! Ladies, Ladies, cry'd I, not half that Air, you'll fire the Houſe. Both ſmil'd; for by the by, there's no carrying a Metaphor too far, when a Lady's Charms are ſpoke of. Some body, I think, has call'd a fine Woman dancing, a Brandiſh'd Torch of Beauty. Theſe Rivals mov'd with ſuch an agreeable Freedom, that you would believe their Geſture was the neceſſary Effects of the Muſick, and not the Product of Skill and Practice. Now *Clidamira* came on with a Crowd of Graces, and demanded my Judgment with ſo ſweet an Air— But ſhe had no ſooner carried it, but *Damia* made her utterly forgot by a gentle ſinking, and a Rigadoon Step. The Conteſt held a full half Hour; and I proteſt, I ſaw no manner of Difference in their Perfections, till they came up together, and expected my Sentence. Look ye Ladies, ſaid I, I ſee no Difference in the leaſt in your Performance; but you *Clidamira* ſeem to be ſo well ſatisfied that I ſhall determine for you, that I muſt give it to *Damia*, who ſtands with ſo much Diffidence and Fear, after ſhowing an equal Merit to what ſhe pretends to. Therefore, *Clidamira*, you are a pretty; but *Damia*, you are a *very* pretty Lady. For, ſaid I, Beauty loſes its Force, if not accompanied with Modeſty. She that has an humble Opinion of her ſelf, will have every body's Applauſe, becauſe ſhe does not expect it; while the vain Creature loſes Approbation, through too great a Senſe of deſerving it.

From my own Apartment, June 27.

Being of a very ſpare and hective Conſtitution, I am forc'd to make frequent Journies of a Mile or two for freſh Air; and indeed by this laſt, which was no further than the Village of *Chelſea*, I am farther convinc'd of the Neceſſity of travelling to know the World. For as it is uſual with young Voyagers, aſſoon as they land upon a Shore, to begin their Accounts of the Nature of the People, their Soil, their Government, their Inclinations, and their Paſſions, ſo really I fancied I could give you an immediate Deſcription of this Village, from the five Fields where the Robbers lie in wait, to the Coffee-houſe where the *Literati* ſit in Council. A great Anceſtor of ours by the Mother's Side, Mr. Juſtice *Overdo*, (whoſe Hiſtory is written by *Ben. Johnſon*) met with more Enormities by walking *incog.* than he was capable of correcting; and found great Mortifications in obſerving alſo Perſons of Eminence, whom he before knew nothing

of.

of. So it far'd with me ev'n in a Place ſo near the Town as this. When I came into the Coffee-houſe, I had not Time to ſalute the Company, before my Eye was diverted by Ten thouſand Gimcracks round the Room and on the Sieling. When my firſt Aſtoniſhment was over, comes to me a Sage of a thin and meagre Countenance; which Aſpect made me doubt, whether Reading or Fretting had made it ſo Philoſophick: But I very ſoon perceiv'd him to be of that Sect which the Ancients call *Gingiviſtæ*; in our Language, Tooth-Drawers. I immediately had a Reſpect for the Man; for theſe practical Philoſophers go upon a very rational Hypotheſis, not to cure, but take away the Part affected. My Love of Mankind made me very benevolent to Mr. *Salter*, for ſuch is the Name of this eminent Barber and Antiquary. Men are uſually, but unjuſtly, diſtinguiſh'd rather by their Fortunes, than their Talents, otherwiſe this Perſonage would make a great Figure in that Claſs of Men which I diſtinguiſh under the Title of *Odd Fellows*. But it is the Misfortune of Perſons of great Genius, to have their Faculties diſſipated by Attention to too many Things at once. Mr. *Salter* is an Inſtance of this: If he would wholly give himſelf up to the String, inſtead of playing twenty Beginnings to Tunes, he might before he dies play *Roger de Caubly* quite out. I heard him go through his whole Round, and indeed I think he does play the merry *Chriſt-Church* Bells pretty juſtly; but he confeſs'd to me, he did that rather to ſhow he was Orthodox, than that he valued himſelf upon the Muſick it ſelf. Or if he did proceed in his Anatomy, Why might not he hope in Time to cut off Legs, as well as draw Teeth? The Particularity of this Man put me into a deep Thought, whence it ſhould proceed, that of all the lower Order of Men, Barbers ſhould go further in hitting the Ridiculous, than any other Set of Men. Watermen brawl, Coblers ſing: But why muſt a Barber be for ever a Politician, a Muſician, an Anatomiſt, a Poet, and a Phyſician. The learned *Voſſius* ſays, his Barber us'd to comb his Head in *Iambicks*. And indeed in all Ages, one of this uſeful Profeſſion, this Order of Coſmetick Philoſophers, has been celebrated by the moſt eminent Hands. You ſee the Barber in Don *Quixot* is one of the principal Characters in the Hiſtory, which gave me Satisfaction in the Doubt, why Don *Saltero* writ his Name with a *Spaniſh* Termination: For he is deſcended in a right Line, not from *John Tradeſcan*, as he himſelf aſſerts, but from that memorable Companion of the Knight of *Mancha*. And I hereby certify all the worthy Citizens who travel to ſee his Rarities, that his double-barrel'd Piſtols, Targets, Coats of Mail, his Sclopeta, and Sword of *Toledo*, were left to his Anceſtor by the ſaid Don *Quixot*, and by the ſaid Anceſtor to all his Progeny down to Don *Saltero*. Tho' I go thus far in Favour of Don *Saltero*'s great Merit, I cannot allow a Liberty he takes of impoſing ſeveral Names (without my Licence) on the Collections he has made, to the Abuſe of the good People of *England*; one of which is particularly calculated to deceive Religious Perſons, to the great Scandal of the Well-diſpos'd, and may introduce Heterodox Opinions. He ſhows you a Straw-Hat, which I know to be made by *Madge Peskad*, within three Miles of *Bedford*; and tells you, *it is* Pontius Pilate's *Wife's Chamber-Maid's Siſter's Hat*. To my Knowledge of this very Hat, it may be added, that the Covering of Straw was never us'd among the *Jews*, ſince it was demanded of 'em to make Bricks without it. Therefore this is really nothing, but under the ſpecious Pretence of Learning and Antiquity, to impoſe upon the World. There are other Things which I cannot tolerate among his Rarities; as, the *China* Figure of a Lady in the Glaſs-Caſe; the *Italian* Engine for the Impriſonment of thoſe who go abroad with it: Both which I hereby order to be taken down, or elſe he may expect to have his Letters-Patents for making Punch ſuperſeded, be debarr'd wearing his Muff next Winter, or ever coming to *London* without his Wife. It may be perhaps thought I have dwelt too long upon the Affairs of this Operator; but I deſire the Reader to remember, that it is my Way to conſider Men as they ſtand in Merit, and not according to their Fortune or Figure; and if he is in a Coffee-houſe at the reading hereof, let him look round, and he will find there may be more Characters drawn in this Account than that of Don *Saltero*; for half the Politicians about him, he may obſerve, are by their Place in Nature of the Claſs of Tooth-Drawers.

Advertiſements.

By the End of this Term will be publiſh'd,

THE Second Edition, with above one third Additions, of the Gentleman's Recreations, in large Fol. in Two Parts. The Firſt, containing all the Arts and Sciences: The Second, Horſemanſhip, Hawking, Hunting, Fiſhing, Fowling and Agriculture: Which laſt is now intirely compleated from the beſt Modern Books lately printed at Paris. The whole illuſtrated with near 100 Copper Plates: With a Third Book added, being a Compleat Body of our Foreſt, Chace, and Game-Laws, &c. Price to Subſcribers 35 s. in Quires; a 7th Gratis. They are deſired to ſend in their Names to be printed, to R. Bonwick, W. Freeman, T. Goodwin, J. Waltho, M. Wotton, S. Manſhip, J. Nicholſon, R. Parker, B. Took, or R. Smith, Bookſellers. Note, Dr. Nichols's Comment on the whole Book of Common-Prayer, in large Fol. is now going to the Preſs; Printed for the ſame Perſons.

On Thurſday next will be publiſh'd,

☞ The Golden Spy; or, a Political Journal of the Britiſh Night-Entertainments both in War and Peace. Wherein is laid open the ſecret Intereſt and Progreſs of Gold in the Courts of Europe. Intermix'd with delightful Intrigues, Memoirs, Tales, and Adventures, both in Love and Politicks, Serious and Comical. Printed for J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, and J. Woodward in St. Chriſtopher's Church-Yard by the Royal-Exchange Price 5 s.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

*** Memoirs of the Life and Adventures of Signior ROZELLI, at the Hague, giving a particular Account of his Birth, Education, Slavery, Monaſtick State, Impriſonment in the Inquiſition at Rome, and the different Figures he has ſince made, as well in Italy, as in France and Holland. The whole being a Series of the moſt diverting Hiſtory, and ſurprizing Events, ever yet made publick. Done into Engliſh from the ſecond Edition of the French: and adorn'd with ſeveral curious Copper-Cuts. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 5 s.

Juſt publiſh'd,

*** The Hiſtory of the Reign of Queen Anne, digeſted into Annals. Year the 7th. Containing a full and exact Account of the long and glorious Campaign of his Grace the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene in the Netherlands, with ſeveral Particulars never before publiſh'd. Alſo the trueſt Plans of the Battles of Audenard and Wynendale, and Siege of Liſle. Printed for M. Coggan in the Inner-Temple-Lane.

☞ A Military Dictionary: Explaining all difficult Terms in Martial Diſcipline, Fortification, and Gunnery. The Third Edition, Improv'd. To which is likewiſe added, a Sea Dictionary of all the Terms of Navigation. Both of them very uſeful (to all Perſons that read the Publick News, or ſerve in the Army, Navy, or Militia) for the Underſtanding the Accounts of Sieges, Battles, and other Warlike and Marine Expeditions, which daily occur in this Time of Action. By Officers who ſerv'd ſeveral Years at Sea and Land. Printed; and ſold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, Price 1 s. 6 d.

Lately publiſh'd,

☞ A New Set of CUTS for the Common Prayer, 55 in Number, far exceeding any done in Great Britain before. Engraven by J. Sturt: And ſold by him in Golden-Lion-Court, Alderſgate-ſtreet; R. Whitledge in Ave-Mary-Lane; J. Morphew, and J. Hazard, near Stationers-Hall. Pr. 3 s.

*** A Supplement to the New Verſion of Pſalms by Dr. Brady and Mr. Tate; containing, the Pſalms in particular Meaſures; the uſual Hymns, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, for the Holy Sacrament, &c. with Gloria Patri's, and Tunes (Treble and Baſs) proper to each of them, and all the reſt of the Pſalms. The Sixth Edition, Corrected; and much enlarged: With the Addition of Plain Inſtructions for all thoſe who are deſirous to learn or improve themſelves in Pſalmody; near 30 new Tunes, compoſed by ſeveral of the beſt Maſters; and a Table of Pſalms ſuited to the Feaſts and Faſts of the Church, &c. With Tables of all the Pſalms of the New, Old, and Dr. Patrick's Verſions, directing what Tunes are fitted for each Pſalm. The Whole being a Compleat Pſalmody. Uſeful for Teachers and Learners of either Verſion. Printed; and Sold by James Holland, at the Bible and Ball, at the Weſt-End of St. Paul's.